DOCKET SECTION

BEFORE THE POSTAL RATE COMMISSION WASHINGTON, D.C. 20268-0001

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POSTAL RATE AND FEE CHANGES, 1997

Docket No.: R97-1 may a roun of the Grand Seven LARY

OBJECTION OF UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE TO INTERROGATORY DMA/USPS-11 AND MOTION FOR LATE ACCEPTANCE THEREOF

The United States Postal Service hereby objects to interrogatory DMA/USPS-11, filed on November 25, 1997, and moves for late acceptance of this objection. Delay in addressing this interrogatory was caused by the temporary absence of personnel familiar with the matter requested therein.

The interrogatory seeks information relating to, and a copy of, a study comparing the compensation of nonbargaining, nonexempt postal employees with private sector compensation. Such information has no relevance to the issues in this case. Test year costs are estimated based on actual Postal Service compensation levels and any anticipated changes in those levels. Private sector compensation levels and the difference between those and the Postal Service's provide no useful information in evaluating the costs estimated in this proceeding.

Respectfully submitted,

UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE

By its attorneys:

Daniel J. Foucheaux, Jr. Chief CounselpRatemaking

Scott L. Reiter

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20260–1137 (202) 268–2999; Fax –5402 December 10, 1997

CERTIFICATE OF SERVICE

I hereby certify that I have this day served the foregoing document upon all participants of record in this proceeding in accordance with section 12 of the Rules of Practice.

Scott L. Reiter

475 L'Enfant Plaza West, S.W. Washington, D.C. 20260–1137 (202) 268–2999; Fax –5402 December 10, 1997